

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REB



2 DEC 1977

Honorable Wendell R. Anderson  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Anderson:

Thank you for your letter of October 20, 1977, requesting advice concerning the inquiry by the City of St. Louis Park, Minnesota, as to grant availability. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not have authority to issue grant funds for ground-water pollution abatement through either the Safe Drinking Water Act or Water Pollution Control Act, but the Agency does have general grant funds for establishing ground water quality monitoring and for research and demonstration projects. Since the City of St. Louis Park has already hired a consultant and determined the source of pollution to be the Reilly Tar and Chemical Company, it is not eligible for these grants.

In the situation where a contaminant is present in or is likely to enter a public water system and present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the health of persons, and where the appropriate State and local authorities have not acted to protect the health of such persons, the Administrator may take such actions necessary to protect the public health of such persons (P.L. 93-523, Part D - Emergency Powers). In this particular case, the City has initiated appropriate actions to find a solution to the contamination by

Prepared by:LSilka:fem:WH-550:426-3934:AL 6393:Due 11/7/77: typed 11/15/77  
retyped 11/16/77

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

locating the pollution source. As a second step the City could commence civil action against the polluter for appropriate relief. Ideally, the burden of cost for pollution abatement incurred by the City would be compensated for by the polluter, not the general public or the taxpayer. If in the event neither the City nor subsequent State action can affect an equitable solution to this problem, and an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health exists, the Agency may be in a position to utilize the emergency powers provision of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Our Regional Office in Chicago will be consulting with the City of St. Louis Park and State officials concerning the problem. If you require further assistance or seek additional information, please contact me (202 755-2800).

Sincerely yours,

Thomas C. Jorling  
Assistant Administrator

cc: Region 5  
Carol Finch

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FROM ANDERSON, WENDELL R.			CONTROL NO. AL-6393
SUBJECT AND DATE City of St. Louis Park, Minnesota - desires to apply for federal funds under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Safe Drinking Water Act			DATE REC'D 10/28/77
10/20/77			DUE DATE 11/7/77
REFERRED (1) WH (1027) (ACTION) DATE 10/31/77	(2) cc: Carol Finch	(3) cc: Region 5	(4) <i>Kirwin</i> 10/31
REPLY SENT TO			DATE RELEASED
REMARKS Reply for signature of Mr. Jorling Return to AL, rm. 835, WSMW, for dispatching Copy of reply for AL			ACKNOWLEDGED - DATE <input type="checkbox"/>
			NO ANSWER NEEDED <input type="checkbox"/> (Explain in remarks)

EPA Form 5180-1 (6-72)  
REPLACES FWPCA FORM 72 AND  
HEW-73 WHICH MAY NOT BE USED.

(Remove this copy only, do not separate remainder.)

MAIL CONTROL SCHEDULE



WENDELL R. ANDERSON  
MINNESOTA

6393

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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October 20, 1977

Mr. Thomas Jorling  
Assistant Administrator  
for Water & Hazardous Materials  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Waterside Mall  
Washington, D.C.

ASAP  
WH (10/27)  
cc: Finch  
Region 5  
Mr. Jorling sign

Dear Mr. Jorling:

Enclosed is a summary discussion of a critical problem facing the City of St. Louis Park, Minnesota. The city desires to apply for federal funds under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Safe Drinking Water Act or other statutes to pay for the cost of abating and monitoring the groundwater pollution described in the enclosed summary.

I would appreciate your advising me of any available sources of funds to assist the city in this regard, and, the procedures and requirements for the city to apply and qualify for any grant funds.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

*Wendell R. Anderson*

Wendell R. Anderson  
U.S. Senator

WRA:mh

Enclosure



## STUDY RESULTS OF SOIL AND GROUNDWATER POLLUTION INVESTIGATION

City of St. Louis Park, Minnesota

### BACKGROUND

For 50 years, Reilly Tar and Chemical Company, a coal tar distillation and wood preserving facility, operated in the center of the City. During this operation, spills occurred and wastes were reportedly discharged into the environment. A consulting firm was hired to assess the impacts of this facility on the soil and groundwater systems in the area. The study objectives measured:

- 1) The extent of coal tar waste in the soil;
- 2) Effects of these wastes on surficial and bedrock groundwater quality;
- 3) Interaction between the surficial groundwater systems and the underlying bedrock aquifers;
- 4) Predictions of future impact of the waste deposit on groundwater quality; and
- 5) Recommended corrective actions and future studies necessary to solve any identified problems.

### STUDY FINDINGS

Study findings indicate detectable quantities of coal tar derivatives in the soil borings taken. The groundwater in the glacial drift is contaminated with coal tar derivatives. Measurable quantities of phenolic and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons such as pyrene were found. Some of these materials were found at a depth of 50 feet below the ground surface, and these wastes have traveled at least 1,000 feet to the southeast from their original origin at the distillation plant. The movement rate is estimated to be between 30 and 150 feet per year and through time, it is possible that the contamination could reach the groundwater aquifers used for domestic purposes. The consultant recommends that certain wells in the area that are uncased could provide potential pathways for groundwater. Also, certain existing wells which are being used act as barriers to waste movement. The consultant suggests barrier wells to contain the contamination.



#### COST OF ABATEMENT

Three gradient control wells and two monitoring wells	\$25,000
Sanitary sewer connections from the gradient control wells	8,000
Abandonment and grouting of existing uncased wells	50,000
Cost to replace abandoned municipal Well No. 3	40,000
Engineering costs	20,000
✓ Sewer connection charge	90,000
Operative cost	17,000
Additional studies	40,000

#### GRANTS

Water Pollution control - State and Interstate Program Grants (Section 106 Grants) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended;

Drinking Water Supply-Technical Assistance; Public Health Service Act, as amended, Sections 301, 311 and 361;

Water Pollution Control - State and Area-Wide Water Quality Management Planning Agency; Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Amendments of 1972.